

## **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

### **Remote Zoom Meeting**

5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**Present** – Councillors Myers (Chairman), Ireton, Moorby, Mulligan, Solloway.

**Officers** – Legal Services Manager, Licensing Manager, Assistant Licensing Officer, Senior Democratic Services Officer and Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer.

Start: 6.31pm

Finish: 7:21pm

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Heseltine, Jaquin, Madeley and Whitaker.

The minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were confirmed.

The Licensing Manager introduced Emma Hayton to the Committee who had recently joined the Licensing Team as Assistant Licensing Officer. The Committee welcomed her and wished her well in her role.

LIC.243

### **INTRODUCTION OF MANDATORY CCTV (TAXI CAMERA) IN LICENSED VEHICLES**

The Licensing Manager submitted a report further reviewing the implementation date of 1<sup>st</sup> April for mandatory CCTV in licensed vehicles as a result of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. The Licensing Committee had already delayed the implementation date on two previous occasions due to the uncertain economic impact of the virus.

During the ensuing debate, Members considered whether to extend the implementation date again. However, in acknowledging the cost of installation, on balance Members were keen to see CCTV in licensed vehicles as soon as possible as it offered protection to the travelling public and drivers alike. Members commented that when some of the current restrictions were lifted and the vaccine was rolled out, life would start getting back to normal and the night time economy would resume meaning that CCTV in taxis would be up and running thereby helping safeguard passengers and drivers. Members also referred to recent Licensing and Appeals Hearing where clearly having CCTV fitted in licensed vehicles assisted all parties with the outcome of the case.

Members recognised that the taxi trade had diminished as a result of the pandemic, they also highlighted the available support for taxi drivers, such as the furlough scheme, grants from the self-employed and discretionary grants given out by the Council. There was also a 100% Government backed 'bounce back' scheme that was intended to help small businesses missing out elsewhere and provided working capital and income support.

**Resolved** – (1) That, the implementation date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 for the implementation of CCTV in current licensed vehicles is retained.

(2) That, all new vehicle license applications received from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 are subject to the requirement for CCTV to be fitted in licensed vehicles.

(3) That, the Policy as set out in Appendix A to the report now submitted, in respect of CCTV in licensed vehicles is approved.

**LICENSING OF CARAVAN SITES**

Following the recent training session on caravan site licensing, the Legal Services Manager updated Members on the progress that had been made regarding the review of licensing of caravan sites across the District. Legal Services, Planning and Environmental Health teams were re-evaluating the current position, particularly in respect of the conditions and model conditions currently being used and comparing these with 'best practice' to ensure that the Council had a set of conditions that actually worked.

The second element of the review was considering delegated powers and functions and how those were split across departments and to see how those might work better, whether by formal alterations of those powers and/or by an improvement of communications or understanding of how planning and licensing operate.

Finally, the current enforcement of caravan site licenses would be considered, taking into account the planning position.

The Licensing Manager informed Members that a report setting out the findings of the review, including proposals for Members to consider, would be submitted to the Licensing Committee's next meeting in April 2021. Also at that meeting, the Environmental Health team would deliver a presentation on caravan licensing generally.

Chairman.